

## Take the Bite Out of Brass

The same material composition that makes waterworks brass a highly reliable and durable alloy for waterworks applications also makes the brass a relatively soft metal that can be distorted if subjected to improper installation techniques, such as the use of improper tools. Distortions created by using a pipe wrench on brass waterworks products, regardless of the manufacturer, have cost contractors and municipalities significant time and money throughout the waterworks industry. The amount of time and dollars to replace a leaking valve or fitting is several times higher than the original product cost.

The traditional pipe wrench has teeth designed



The teeth of a traditional pipe wrench are made for pipe, not brass fittings.



A smooth jaw wrench will fully and properly engage the wrench flats on a valve body or fitting.



Proper tools can assure successful installation and avoid costly replacement.



to engage the hard, round surfaces of iron or steel pipe. A pipe wrench can easily damage the relatively soft brass valve and fittings with minimal force. Typical pipe wrench jaws are not parallel; they are 5 to 7 degrees from parallel. This condition greatly increases the distortion force applied to a brass valve or fitting because the jaws do not evenly engage parallel wrench flats.

Make sure your installation goes smoothly. Remember to use a smooth jaw wrench with parallel jaws. If you have any questions about the proper installation of Ford brass products, please contact your local Ford distributor or the Ford Meter Box Company.

